

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
November 1, 3, 2022  
Chicago, Illinois**

**SAA Foundation President's Report  
(Prepared by Lisa Mangiafico, President)**

The Foundation Board appreciates this continued opportunity to directly update the SAA Council on its activities and plans. The Foundation exists to promote and support the charitable and educational initiatives of the Society of American Archivists. The members of the SAA Foundation board believe the past two years have been a turning point in the Foundation's development, and we look forward to strengthening and expanding support the profession.

**Boston Annual Conference Visibility**

One of the concerns of the Foundation, especially the 2021-2022 Development Committee, was to increase/enhance the visibility of the Foundation, and the work it does to support our profession and its practitioners. The Board would like to express deep appreciation to everyone involved in making the operational arrangements for the conference for the amazing visibility of the Foundation including a prime spot in the registration area (which lead to many great conversations about the work of the Foundation and opportunities for grants and awards), the wonderful ice cream social/reception, and the opportunity to be part of the SAA Awards ceremony, as the Foundation is the steward of the dedicated funds which support many of the awards. There were two dozen people in attendance at the forum about SAAF grants program put together by board member Bob Clark (even though A\*CENSUS II was the counter programming!). Thanks to everyone who made all of this happen (especially Jackie and Felicia)!

**Board Development**

Over the past two years, the Foundation has changed to recruiting nominees for Board positions through an open application call. (This call is separate from the call made by the SAA Vice President/President-elect for SAA appointed group leaders.) Part of this open call has included asking applicants to provide information on skills/competencies they might hold in grant development, fundraising, etc. There are numerous members of the current board with experience in fundraising/development, grant programs, and even a former practicing attorney.

This past year the Board also opened up recruitment for non-Board positions on several of the Foundation committees, including the Grant Review and Development committees, and had robust response. All of the non-Board committee positions were filled this year.

### **Foundation Strategic Plan**

The Board approved the Foundation's first strategic plan in June 2022. We will review goals and progress at every Board meeting. One of the strategic goals is strengthening our governance and infrastructure; hiring a foundation manager is one of our objectives. The Foundation is at an inflexion point, where additional staff help is necessary to expand the reach of the Foundation, especially in regard to development work at a time of economic uncertainty and reduce the burden on other areas of SAA staffing. The Board appreciates the urgency that Executive Director Jackie Price Osafo has placed on recruiting for this position in an evolving job market and SAA staff changes.

The Foundation established a Governance Working Group at its September 2022 meeting to review and resolve many of the structural governance suggestions brought forward by our Schultz & Williams consultation in 2020-2021, as well as emerging areas of practice with the Foundation's already established work. Board member (and former attorney) Bob Clark is chairing the working group.

### **Strategic Growth Grants**

Grants are made from the Foundation's unrestricted funds, drawing on the accumulated donations and investment income. The FY 2023 payout rate approved by the Board included \$30,000 for grants. In a change from past practice, the Foundation Board approved suspending position descriptions that required the SAA Foundation president to chair the grants review committee. Beth Joffrion, with experience in grants programs as both a funder and recipient, will chair this committee this year, permitting the SAA Foundation president to begin focusing on our strategic plan.

### **Fundraising/Development**

The end of year annual appeal is under development, and the Foundation is working with Schultz & Williams on messaging. The appeal will feature past recipients (strategic grants, meeting awards, Mosaic scholarships, NDRFA grants). S&W will interview these individuals, and write the appeal messages, which will "come" from these past recipients. Given the disasters of the past year, the Day of Giving may be a mini-appeal with that focus on Foundation work that has disaster preparedness and recovery at its core, while the remainder of the appeal is focused on our strategic growth funds and Mosaic scholarships.

At its October meeting, the Development Committee determined it would seek to re-institute matches by the SAAF Board and Council members in 2023, as many individuals have already budgeted their charitable donations for the 2022 calendar year.

The National Endowment for the Humanities approached the Foundation at the annual conference regarding a renewed interest in potential partnerships for grant funding, which will be explored in the next year. SAA Foundation also received a donation for the Mosaic

Scholarship from Preservica during American Archives Month (October).

**Council/Board Fundraising Expectations**

The Foundation expects all its Board members and SAA Council members to be a Foundation donor at a level and to the fund(s) of their choice. If you have not made a donation to the Foundation in this calendar year, please do so during our end of year appeal. Thank you for your support!